

SPO-599

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the application of:

Hiroshi SAWADA, et al.

Serial No.: Unassigned

Group:

Filed: Concurrently

Examiner:

FOR: ZINC BORATE, METHOD OF PREPARING THE SAME AND USE THEREOF

Date: September 4, 2001

The Hon. Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Preliminary to examination, please amend the herewith filed application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 3, 4 and 6-9 in their entireties and without prejudice.

Please enter the following new claims:

--12 (New) A zinc borate according to claim 1 wherein a product of crystallite sizes as found from the diffraction peaks of indexes of planes (020), (101) and (200) is not smaller than 200,000nm³.

13 (New) A zinc borate according to claim 2 wherein a

200000-03241660

product of crystallite sizes as found from the diffraction peaks of indexes of planes (020), (101) and (200) is not smaller than 200,000nm³.

14. (New) A zinc borate according to claim 1 wherein a volume-based median diameter as found by a laser diffraction method is in a range of from 1.0 to 6.0µm.

15. (New) A zinc borate according to claim 13 wherein a volume-based median diameter as found by a laser diffraction method is in a range of from 1.0 to 6.0µm.

16. (New) A flame-retarding agent or a flame-retarding assistant comprising the zinc borate of claim 1.

17. (New) A flame-retarding agent or a flame-retarding assistant comprising the zinc borate of claim 14.

18. (New) A flame-retarding agent or a flame-retarding assistant comprising the zinc borate of claim 15.

19. (New) A smoke-suppressing agent comprising the zinc borate of claim 1.

20. (New) A smoke-suppressing agent comprising the zinc borate of claim 14.

21. (New) A smoke-suppressing agent comprising the zinc borate of claim 15.

22. (New) An antibacterial agent comprising the zinc borate of claim 1.

23. (New) An antibacterial agent comprising the zinc borate of claim 14.

24. (New) An antibacterial agent comprising the zinc borate of claim 15.

25. (New) A water glass-curing agent comprising the zinc borate of claim 1.

26. (New) A water glass-curing agent comprising the zinc borate of claim 14.

27. (New) A water glass-curing agent comprising the zinc borate of claim 15.--

REMARKS

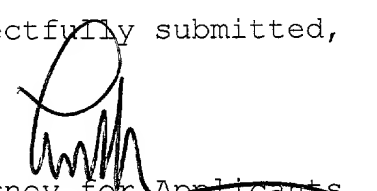
Entry of the foregoing amendments prior to examination of this application is respectfully requested in view of the following comments.

Claims 3, 4 and 6-9 have been cancelled and new claims 12-27 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 2, 5 and 10-27 are pending in this application.

Claims 3, 4 and 6-9 have been cancelled to eliminate improper multiple dependencies therein. New claims 12-27 correspond to the now cancelled claims rewritten in single dependent form.

No new matter has been added and applicant respectfully submits that this application is in condition for allowance and an early notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,


Attorney for Applicants
Leonard W. Sherman
Reg. No. 19,636

SHERMAN & SHALLOWAY
P.O. BOX 788
Alexandria, Virginia 22313
(703) 549-2282

09443-0999
10000-0000